

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00642 121646Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-06 TRSE-00
CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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R 121550Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9811
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON, ZTRD
SUBJECT: FAO/UNCTAD DOCUMENTS ON HARD FIBERS

REF: (A) ROME 19290

1. FODAG IS POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA COPIES OF TWO
DOCUMENTS ON HARD FIBERS.

2. THE FIRST IS THE REPORT OF MR. LUND ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF COIR INTERNATIONAL. THIS REPORT CLOSELY FOLLOWS
THE DESCRIPTION PREVIOUSLY MADE IN REFTEL (A). IT ADVOCATES A
SMALL, COMPACT ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN EUROPE TO STIMULATE
AND DEVELOP AN EXPANDING DEMAND FOR WHITE AND BROWN FIBERS AND
COIR PRODUCTS ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS BY APPLYING IMPROVED
PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENT MARKET PROMOTION METHODS.

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3. THE SECOND DOCUMENT IS A NOTE PREPARED JOINTLY BY THE UNCTAD
AND FAO SECRETARIATS ON POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND UNCTAD
PREPARATORY MEETING ON HARD FIBERS. THE PAPER LISTS THE
VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON
HARD FIBERS, AT THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS, AND THEN
DESCRIBES POSSIBLE, RATHER CAUTIOUS, FOLLOW-UP ACTION. MOST

OF THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION IS TAKING PLACE IN THE FAO AND WILL BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THE 13TH FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBERS MARCH 6-10, 1978.

4. COMMENT: COIR INTERNATIONAL--THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ARRIVE AT A POSITION ON THE CREATION OF COIR INTERNATIONAL. FROM ROME IT LOOKS LIKE A MODEST, PRAGMATIC EFFORT TO HELP COIR PRODUCERS. THE COST IS LIMITED AND BORNE PRIMARILY BY THE PRODUCERS. THE BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE AMONG THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE. EMBASSIES IN NEW DELHI AND SRI LANKA MAY WISH TO COMMENT. FINALLY, FORWARD MOVEMENT OR A LEAST A POSITIVE U.S. POSITION ON COIR INTERNATIONAL WOULD SHOW ASSISTANCE TO A COMMODITY CAN BE ACHIEVED IN OTHER FORA.

5. COMMENT: UNCTAD HARD FIBERS PAPER--LAMADE, FAO EXPERT, IS RATHER PERPLEXED AS TO WHAT JAN. 30-FEB. 3 UNCTAD GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON HARD FIBERS CAN DO EXCEPT REHASH PREVIOUS EXPERT MEETING DISCUSSIONS. AS PAPER INDICATES, FAO HOPES FOR SUPPORT ON COIR INTERNATIONAL; STRENGTHENED FAO INFORMAL PRICE ARRANGEMENTS ON SISAL, HENEQUEN AND ABACA; AND SUPPORT FOR THE FAO TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS FOR SISAL. HOLMES

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